Applicant : Robert Bruce Hirsh   Attorney's Docket No.: 06975-200001 / Security 13
Serial No. : 09/894,919
Filed   : June 29, 2001
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REMARKS

Claims 20, 21, 24-28, 30-39, and 55-95 are pending, with claims 20, 67, and 81 being independent. Claims 20, 21, 24, 26, 27, 30-32, and 34 have been amended, claims 1-19, 22, 23, 29, and 40-54 have been cancelled, and claims 55-95 have been added.

Drawing Objections

An objection was raised with respect to the drawings for failure to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(5) on the basis that the reference numeral 450 in Figures 4 and 8 is not described in the specification and on the basis that the drawings do not include reference numeral 470. The Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments proposed to pages 9 and 12 of the specification obviate these objections without adding new matter.

Specification Objection

An objection was raised with respect to the specification was objected to on the basis that the term "IMAP" is not defined. The Applicant respectfully calls attention to the definition of IMAP as an Internet message access protocol on page 7, lines 5-6 of the specification. Thus, the Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this objection.

35 U.S.C. § 101 Rejections

Claims 1-19 and 40-54 have been rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 101, as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. To expedite prosecution, the Applicant has cancelled claims 1-19 and 40-54. However, the Applicant does not acquiesce to these rejections and reserves the right to traverse these rejections in further prosecution of this or a subsequent application.

35 U.S.C. § 102(e) French Rejections

Claims 1, 6-9, 20, 25-28, 40, and 45-48 have been rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by French (U.S. Patent No. 6,341,312). Of these claims, only claims 20 and 25-28 remain pending. For at least the following reasons, the Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection as applied to claims 25-28.

Independent claim 20 relates to a "method, performed by an intermediary, of leveraging a persistent connection with a client to provide the client with access to a secured service." The method includes, among other things, "establishing a persistent connection between the client

and the intermediary in response to the first request from the client," "receiving a second request from the client at the intermediary, the second request relating to a request for access to a secured service," "authenticating the intermediary to the secured service, responsive to the second request" and "enabling access by the client to the secured service conditioned on whether the intermediary is successfully authenticated to the secured service." French does not describe or suggest at least these features.

French relates to a system for establishing and maintaining a persistent connection between a device and a network. (French at col. 3, line 65 to col. 4, line 14). The persistent connection allows for transparent reconnection of network files and data in the event of a temporary network interruption. (Id.). However, among other things, French does not describe or suggest an intermediary that: (1) receives a second request from a client to access a secured service; (2) authenticates the intermediary to the secured service responsive to the client request to access the secured service; and (3) enables access by the client to the secured service conditioned on whether the intermediary is successfully authenticated to the secured service, as recited in claim 20. In particular, French describes authenticating a device (which the Office Action equates to the claimed client) with a network (which the Office Action equates to the claimed intermediary) to reestablish a persistent connection when that connection is broken. French does not describe, for example, an intermediary that authenticates *itself* to a secured service responsive to a client request for access to the secured service, thus establishing a trusted relationship between the intermediary and the secured service that is used to determine whether the client is able to access the secured service.

For at least these reasons, the rejection of independent claim 20, and its dependent claims 25-28, as being anticipated by French, should be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 103 French/Kung/Cohen/West Rejections

Claims 2-5, 10-19, 21-24, 29-39, 41-44, and 49-54 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being obvious over French in combination with one or more of Kung (U.S. Patent No. 5,241,594), Cohen (U.S. Patent No. 6,178,511), and West (U.S. Patent No. 6,538,996). Of these claims, only claims 21, 24, and 30-39, all of which depend from claim 20, remain pending.

These claims are patentable at least because Kung, Cohen, and West, alone or in combination, do not remedy the deficiencies of French discussed above with respect to independent claim 20. In particular, Kung, Cohen, and West, alone or in combination, do not describe or suggest at least "authenticating the intermediary to the secured service responsive to [a] request" by a client for access to the secured service, as recited in independent claim 20.

Kung enables a local user to establish an authenticated connection between a workstation 11 and a multiple logon server 12 using a user ID and password. (Kung at col. 4, lines 30-40). At a later time, if the user desires to access a remote host 13, the multiple logon server 12 establishes a connection between the workstation 11 and the remote host 13 by using a user ID and password for the remote host that has been previously provided by the user. (Kung at col. 4, lines 40-48). As such, Kung does not describe or suggest at least "authenticating the intermediary to the secured service responsive to [a] request" by a client for access to the secured service, as recited in independent claim 20.

Cohen relates to a single sign-on (SSO) framework that enables a user to sign on to a single client system using a single password and to access various network applications. (Cohen at col. 2, lines 24-30). The SSO stores the user's other passwords in a secure storage and retrieves these passwords as needed to enable signing on to the other network applications. (Id. at col. 2, lines 30-41). However, Cohen does not describe or suggest at least "authenticating the intermediary to the secured service responsive to [a] request" by a client for access to the secured service, as recited in independent claim 20.

West relates to a method for automatically determining the most appropriate remote telephone access numbers to be used by a remote user in accessing a network. (West at col. 2, lines 20-42). West does not describe or suggest at least "authenticating the intermediary to the secured service responsive to [a] request" by a client for access to the secured service, as recited in independent claim 20.

Because Kung, Cohen, and West do not remedy the deficiencies of French, independent claim 20 and its dependent claims 21, 24, and 29-39 are patentable over French, Kung, Cohen,

and West. For at least these reasons, the obviousness rejections of dependent claims 21, 24, and 29-39 should be withdrawn.
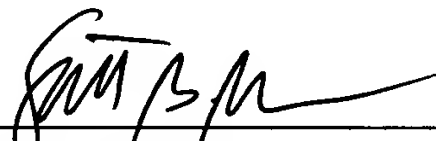
Conclusion

Applicants do not acquiesce to the characterizations of the art. For brevity and to advance prosecution, however, Applicants have not addressed all characterizations of the art, but reserve the right to do so in further prosecution of this or a subsequent application.

Enclosed is a $200.00 check for excess claim fees. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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